



NWS Des Moines

Beautiful early spring daffodils blooming in the front garden at the National Weather Service in Johnston, Iowa.

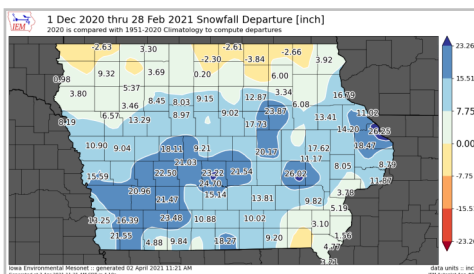
The Weather Whisper

April 2021

2020-2021 Winter Summary In Iowa

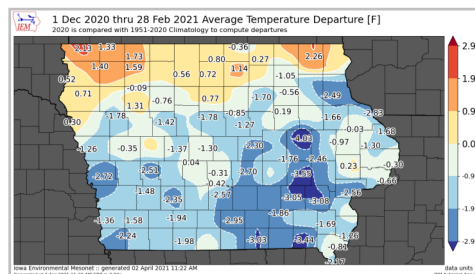
Craig Cogil, Senior Meteorologist

The past winter was a tale of two different seasons with a dramatic shift in weather as we headed into February. December and January were both quite mild regarding temperatures as both months had average readings from 4 to 5 degrees above normal statewide as colder air remained bottled up in Canada. However, February struck with a vengeance as a major pattern shift led to widespread below zero temperatures by the middle of the month. The longevity and severity of the event was impressive and is seen only around every 30 years or so. The arctic plunge pushed the average temperature for the month of February to over 11 degrees below normal and dragged the seasonal average below normal as well. Therefore, even though much of the winter saw above normal temperatures, the bitter cold of February was enough to pull average temperatures below normal for the season. Precipitation was only slightly below normal for the winter season with northern Iowa seeing drier than normal conditions and the south remaining slightly above normal. However, the precipitation that fell did produce plenty of snowfall across Iowa with the statewide average 9.4" above normal for the season which is the 12th snowiest winter for Iowa out of 134 years of records.



Winter Snowfall Departure from Normal for Iowa from December 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021.

Image courtesy of Iowa Environmental Mesonet.



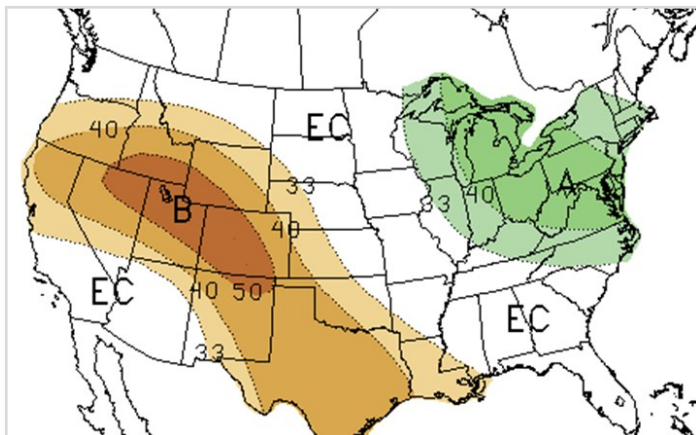
Winter Average Temperature Departure from Normal for Iowa from December 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021.

Image courtesy of Iowa Environmental Mesonet.

Spring Flood Outlook

Jeff Zagg, Senior Hydrologist

Nearly ideal conditions led to an ideal snow melt this spring, which resulted in no flooding in central Iowa. The lack of heavy rainfall on top of the snow melt also led to no flooding. A near normal risk of flooding was anticipated before the snow melt, which is in contrast to the past couple years when there was a higher than normal chance of flooding. Of course, future conditions may lead to flooding in central Iowa. The biggest thing to look for is the rainfall. The areal distribution, frequency and intensity of the rainfall will affect the flooding threat. The current three-month outlook (right) for April, May and June calls for Equal Chances for precipitation across Iowa. That means there is no strong indication of above or below normal precipitation.



#SafePlaceSelfie

Join us on April 7, 2021

- Learn the weather hazards that happen in your area
- Find locations that will keep you safe and take a selfie
- On April 7, post your photo using #SafePlaceSelfie

weather.gov/SafePlaceSelfie

safe place:
interior hall

safe place:
basement

Virtual Advanced Spotter Training

Monday
April 19th
7:00 PM



Registration & More Information

<https://go.usa.gov/xsBP8>

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
DES MOINES, IA



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